Patent Claims

1. Method for providing information about the occupancy of a milking system in which, in order to produce station-related information units, the animals are detected by sensors in sequence individually and are subjected to identification processes, whereby the sensor detection and the identification processes are adjusted to one another in such a way that information units are assigned the particular data detected by sensors that were obtained by the identification processes.

2. Method according to Claim 1, in which the detection occurs essentially before the identification.

3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the detection occurs with sensors, particularly at least a photoelectric barrier or a camera system, an approach sensor or an infrared sensor.

4. Method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the animals are led through an identification area.

5. Method according to one or more of the previous claims, in which individual information on animals is read by an identification device from an animal identification means which is carried by an animal.

6. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 5, in which the identification is done without contact, preferably by RF technology.

7. Method according to one or several of the previous Claims 1 to 6, in which, at the milking stations at which animals are present that have not been unequivocally identified, at least one signal is triggered, especially an optical and/or an acoustical signal.

8. Device for providing information about the occupancy of milking stations of a milking system, with at least one identification device (9), by which each animal is subjected to an identification process, characterized by the fact that each identification device (9) is assigned at least one detection device (10) with at least one sensor (18) which is intended for the detection of each animal, whereby an information device (19) is connected to the identification device (9) and the detection device (10) using information technology, so

that the information device (19) makes available individual information units at least to those milking stations (3, 4, 5) in which the animals corresponding to the information units are located.

9. Device according to Claim 8, characterized by the fact that the detection device (10, 11) is arranged to point towards the milking station (3, 4, 5) in front of the identification device (9).

10. Device according to Claim 8 or 9, characterized by the fact that the detection device (10, 11) has at least one sensor, especially an optical sensor (18), preferably at least a photoelectric barrier or a camera system and/or an approach sensor.

11. Device according to Claim 8, 9 or 10, characterized by the fact that at least two detection devices (10, 11) are provided which are arranged one after the other in the direction of the milking stations (3, 4, 5).

12. Device according to one or several of the previous Claims 8 to 11, characterized by the fact that the identification device (9) has at least one transmitting and/or receiving unit.

13. Device according to one of Claims 8 to 12, characterized by the fact that the information device (19) has at least one output unit (20, 21), preferably an optical and/or acoustical output unit.

14. Device according to one of Claims 8 to 13, characterized b y the fact that the information device (19) has at least one memory unit.

15. Device according to one or several of previous Claims 8 to 14, characterized by the fact that the information device (19) is connected to a herd management system (22) using information technology.

16. Device according to at least one of Claims 8 to 14, characterized by the fact that the information device (19) is connected to a milking station control (24) using information technology.